GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3086
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Plantation of Trees
Sathyabama Smt. V.

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any policy with regard to planting of trees in place of trees cut due to widening of national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of trees cut and planted as a result of widening of national highways; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against those road construction companies which do not plant trees in place of trees cut for construction of roads as per the Government policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) & b) Yes Madam. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has promulgated the Green Highways (Plantation, Transplantation, Beautification & Maintenance) Policy, 2015 with regard to planting of trees in place of trees cut due to widening of National Highways as per the Statutory conditions by different agencies. Planting of trees in lieu of the cut trees is generally done after substantial completion of Civil construction works to avoid damage to the planted saplings. Like tree cutting, planting is done by different agencies, including the Forest Department, depending upon the requirements of individual project and contractual conditions. Information regarding tree cutting and planting is not compiled at Central level.

(c) To compensate for trees cut during construction of highways, the State Forest Department undertakes Compensatory Afforestation (CA). For this, NHAI deposits necessary funds as per Guidelines of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change. Generally, road Construction Company is not involved in compensatory plantation in lieu of cut trees. However, Median Plantation & Avenue Plantation are done by the Contractors as per provisions of the Contract Agreement and defaults if any, are dealt as per provisions of the Contract Agreement.
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